

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE RECONNAISSANCE
FOR VALLEY OAK PARTNERS, LLC, OLD WARM SPRINGS PROJECT AREA,
FREMONT, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

by

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Report Prepared For

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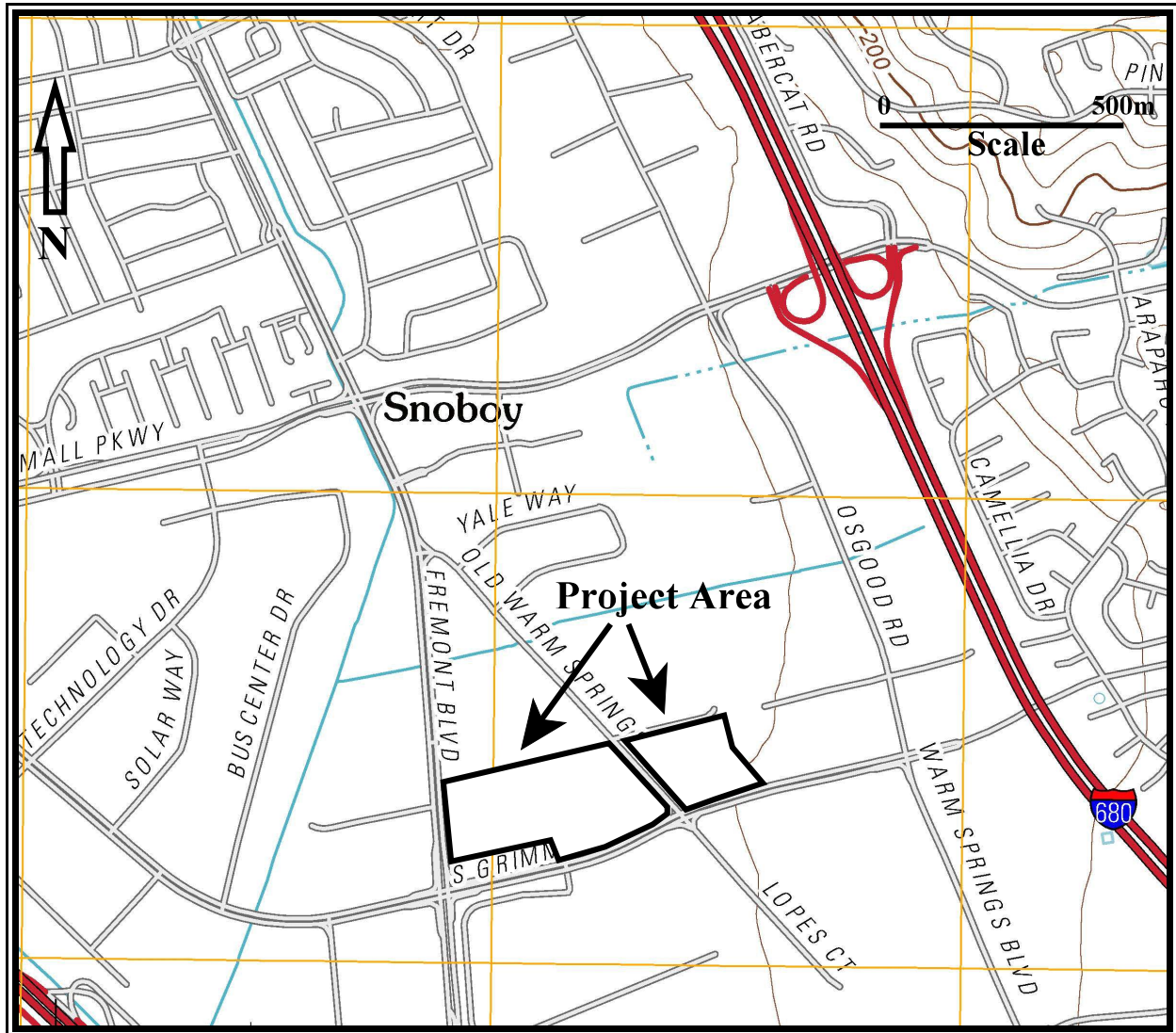
INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT SUMMARY

Beginning in May 2015, Holman & Associates Archaeological Consultants (H&A) conducted an archaeological records search for the 28.65 acre “Old Warm Springs Project Area” (Project) in the City of Fremont, Alameda County, California. The records search was followed by intensive surface reconnaissance of the two portions of property, separated by Old Warm Springs Boulevard, and subsequent subsurface reconnaissance of the westerly portion to test for prehistoric archaeological deposits. This work was authorized by and completed for Mr. Doug Rich of Valley Oak Partners, LLC, in San Jose. Valley Oak Partners is planning a mixed-use development on the currently mostly undeveloped and fallow properties. Because the proposed project involves earth-moving and construction impacts that could adversely affect archaeological resources on the Project Area, this archaeological reconnaissance and other work was required under provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Research regarding possible archaeological concerns for the development project involved three steps. First, a review of historical resources records at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) showed that at least three surface reconnaissances covered portions of the properties, one of those including the entire eastern portion (Ruby et al. 2008; Bowden and Koenig 2011; Ruby et al. 2010, and a prehistoric archaeological site, CA-ALA-610, was first recorded in 2002 in the western portion (Gilreath and Duval 2002), and an update recording re-mapped the site as larger in 2006 Far Western Anthropological Research Group [FWARG] 2006; Ruby et al. 2008). Additional archival research was undertaken using in-house documentary resources and informants. A pedestrian intensive reconnaissance of the Project Area was completed by H&A staff on 04 June, finding no additional prehistoric cultural materials other than what is described on the archaeological site record. Subsequent subsurface reconnaissance was completed by excavating 25 backhoe trenches in the larger western property, with entirely negative results. Standing structures on the two property portions were not evaluated for potential significance. This report and the recommendations below constitute the third and final step of archaeological resources inventory for this Project.

The Old Warm Springs Project Area was intensively surface surveyed and the westerly portion where a prehistoric site had been recorded was explored subsurface; field conditions were generally very good to excellent for both inspections. A few very scant possibly prehistoric cultural remains as described in the Archaeological Site Record and Update for CA-ALA-610 were found on the disced surface, but no definitely prehistoric archaeological materials or resources were found or recorded during this fieldwork, the 2002/2006 site record notwithstanding. As described in the Primary and Site Records, a very scant scatter of shell fragments is the only possibly prehistoric cultural component of the site; no other types of artifacts or cultural materials were found by any investigations of the location. Particular attention was given to the westernmost area next to Fremont Boulevard previously reported to contain indications of prehistoric cultural deposits, with negative results. Therefore, we conclude this location does not meet the criteria required to be recorded as a prehistoric archaeological site. No additional prehistoric archaeological resources research is recommended for the proposed Valley Oak Partners, LLC, development of these properties.

Historical maps and aerial photos as well as findings in the field reveal the eastern portion of the Project Area probably had a farmhouse on it by 1906, and by 1946 there were four complexes of structures on the parcels making up the eastern portion. One house and wellhouse remain standing, but aerial photo evidence seems to indicate they are later than 1956; the other complex locations are evident on the ground, associated with clusters of trees. These features are all old enough to potentially be historical resources under CEQA should significant historical materials, features, or deposits be present. It is recommended that initial grading in these locations, and any tree removals involving excavations, be monitored by qualified archaeologist(s) to record and recover any significant data that may be present.



Map 1: Valley Oak Partners, LLC, Old Warm Springs Project Location.
(USGS “Niles” 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle, 2012)

THE PROJECT AREA

Location and Legal Description

The Old Warm Springs Project Area is located in the Warm Springs District of the City of Fremont in Alameda County. The Project Area comprises two properties separated by Old Warm Springs Boulevard, totaling 28.65 acres. The smaller eastern portion totals 8.1 acres in four parcels; it is bounded by South Grimmer Boulevard at the south, Old Warm Springs Boulevard at the west, Tavis Place at the north, and PG&E and Union Pacific Railroad property at the east. The 20.55 acre western portion is a single parcel, bounded by South Grimmer at the south, Old Warm Springs at the east, Fremont Boulevard at the west, and a private fence at the north (see Maps 1 and 2). The Project Area is located on the USGS “Niles” 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle, a portion of which is reproduced here as “Map 1.” The Project Area is within the 1820s Mexican-era “Agua Caliente” land grant and so is not surveyed into the township-and-range survey system. The western Project Area parcel is designated as Alameda County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 519-0900-07-03 and 519-0900-07-02; the four eastern parcels by APNs 519-131-004-01, 519-131-003-02, 519-131-003-04, and 519-131-005-04.

Biophysical Description

Cultural resources and/or historic properties likely to exist in the Project Area are products of the interaction of human behaviors with the physical environment—i.e., adaptations to utilize resources allowing human use and occupation of the location. To find, understand the genesis and uses, and interpret the meanings of cultural resources in the Project Area, knowing the past and present environmental and cultural context is essential. Following is a basic description of the natural setting, current conditions, and cultural past of the Old Warm Springs Project Area vicinity.

The Project Area lies on the flat to gently sloping alluvial plain east of the southern reaches of San Francisco Bay. The properties are basically flat and nearly level, gently and uniformly slope from east to west, the highest elevation at about 40 feet at the southeast corner and the lowest at the southwest corner at about 22 feet. The properties are currently mostly open but the western parcel contains a large metal and masonry-sided barn-like or warehouse structure in the southwestern corner, with a concrete pad/driveway on the Fremont Boulevard side and a grove of thickly-grown trees immediately south that is also encroaching on the barn at the east and west; the remainder of the parcel is entirely open fields. The eastern property contains a graveled former driveway from Old Warm Springs Boulevard leading to an abandoned house and adjacent shed/wellhouse near the southwest corner (Figure 2). What appear to have been two other structure locations were noted in the otherwise open field northwest of the standing structure (confirmed by historic maps and aerial photos), evidenced by planted trees, broken concrete chunks and bags of solidified cement/concrete, remnants of electrical conduit and miscellaneous other structural and discarded materials. Another structure location was noted at the northeast corner of the eastern property, and this too was confirmed to have been built on by 1946 by historical maps and aeriels (Figure 1).

Other than the grove of trees next to the barn and one other nearby, the only other trees on the western side are an oak near the northwest corner and a palm at the south-center; a line of trees along the southern parcel boundary at South Grimmer are off the property. The eastern parcel has several trees around the two standing structures, a solitary or few trees at the former structure locations to the north, three trees in the northeast corner, and a pepper tree near the eastern fence. A large power tower stands near the southeasternmost corner within an easement on the eastern parcel. That parcel, though recently disced prior to the survey, also contained morning glory vines, coyote bush. And some willows, olive trees, and fennel along the northeastern fence. A strip about 4 m wide along the east side of Old Warm Springs Boulevard had

not been disced and contained some volunteer walnut trees, Sow Thistle, Bristly Ox Tongue, and dried annual grasses of Eurasian origins. Cobbles along the eastern fence near the railroad also show plow scars as evidence of agricultural use.

Soil on both sides of Old Warm Springs Boulevard is a uniform medium-dark grey-brown or brownish-grey clayey silt on and near the surface, containing very few not-imported rocks, transitioning to a light then medium soft brown, more clayey silt deeper than about 80cm/2½ feet over all of the western property. The second strata also tends to contain more rocks, but still few, including sandstone gravels and rounded pebbles to cobbles indicative of being water worn and deposited. The deeper strata, below about 150 cm/5 feet, was generally more sandy clay of medium brown containing some rounded pea gravel. The surface soils contained abundant imported construction gravels near the western parcel barn and nearer the streets, as well as along inside the northern fence. The eastern portion also had construction gravel and other imported rock, especially around the house and wellhouse and the other probable former structure locations. That parcel also has two raised, gravel-covered berms, about 10-12 feet wide, running north/south on the eastern and central portion, from the north boundary to below the middle of the property; one berm was entirely covered by thickly grown thistles.

Aboriginally, this area would have been an open grassy plain crossed by small drainages running to the Bay, probably spotted with occasional Coast Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, perhaps Valley Oak, Box Elder, and California Bay Laurel trees, and species of willows in the riparian corridors. The location is between the slowly and then abruptly rising East Bay hills to the east and the alluvial plain slowly descending to Bayside marshlands. Prehistoric populations were generally clustered near the streams and on the margins of the Bay; this location is between perennial streams and outside the Bay marshlands according to the oldest topographic maps (circa 1895).

Historical maps (back to 1906) and aerial photos (back to 1939) show the large metal barn on the western side appeared between 1956 and 1961, along with another structure, very probably a house, on the adjacent parcel to the south (now an office park and not part of this project). Prior to 1956/1961 the entire western parcel was continuously used for agriculture for at least a century as evidenced in those same maps and aerials (EDR 2014, 2014a). A 1993 aerial shows a trough near the barn to the northeast, which does not appear on 1980 or 1998 photos.

The easterly property shows mapped use earlier and denser. The 1906 Pleasanton 15 minute topographic map shows a structure at the southwest of the property, with the railroad, Prune Avenue, (Old) Warm Springs Boulevard, and what is now Fremont Boulevard in place (Map 2). A 1939 aerial photo shows the single small structure at the southwest corner and another small structure just to the north, at the location of the central of the three structural locations on the west side of the property; both structures have driveways from (Old) Warm Springs Boulevard and are surrounded by orchards. The 1941 Pleasanton 15 minute topographic quadrangle is the first to show orchard stretching northward on the property from the south, as does the 1947 map; both show only the southwestern house but not the other seen in 1939. A 1946 aerial shows the three structure complexes in a line on the west and the one in the northeast corner, all presumably homes with outbuildings (Figure 1). These four complexes, with some changes through time, all appear on aerials as late as 1980; the 1953 topographic map confirms the presence of all four plus what (based on aerials) is likely to be a barn or other new structure to the southeast of the southwesterly house. The four houses/structure complexes continue to be shown on topographic maps through 1980, as they do on aerials to the same year. By 1948 the orchard at the southeast corner starts to disappear and about a fifth of the property becomes an open field until 1980, when all the orchard trees are gone from the aerial and the property is open fields, with the four structural complexes still in place the southwesterly two reached by driveways off Old Warm Springs Boulevard and the northwest and northeast one reached by driveways off

Prune Avenue, which still crosses the railroad tracks. By 1993 Prune Avenue ends in cul-de-sacs on both sides of the railroad. All four structure complexes still show on a 1998 aerial, but are gone by 2005 with the exception of the still standing southwestern buildings, which most likely were constructed after 1956. The eastern parcels were evidently subdivided by 1946 and have had subsequent land use histories as both residential and agricultural.

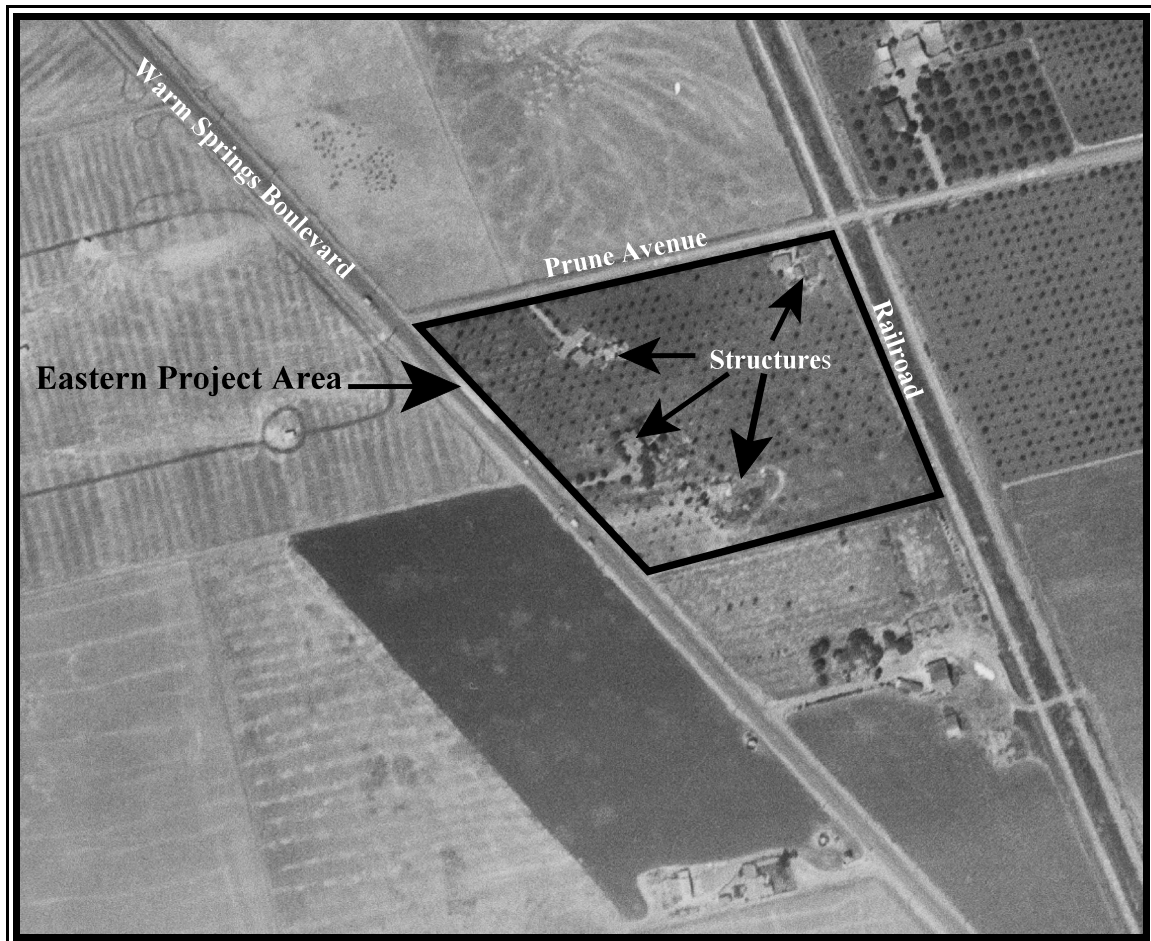
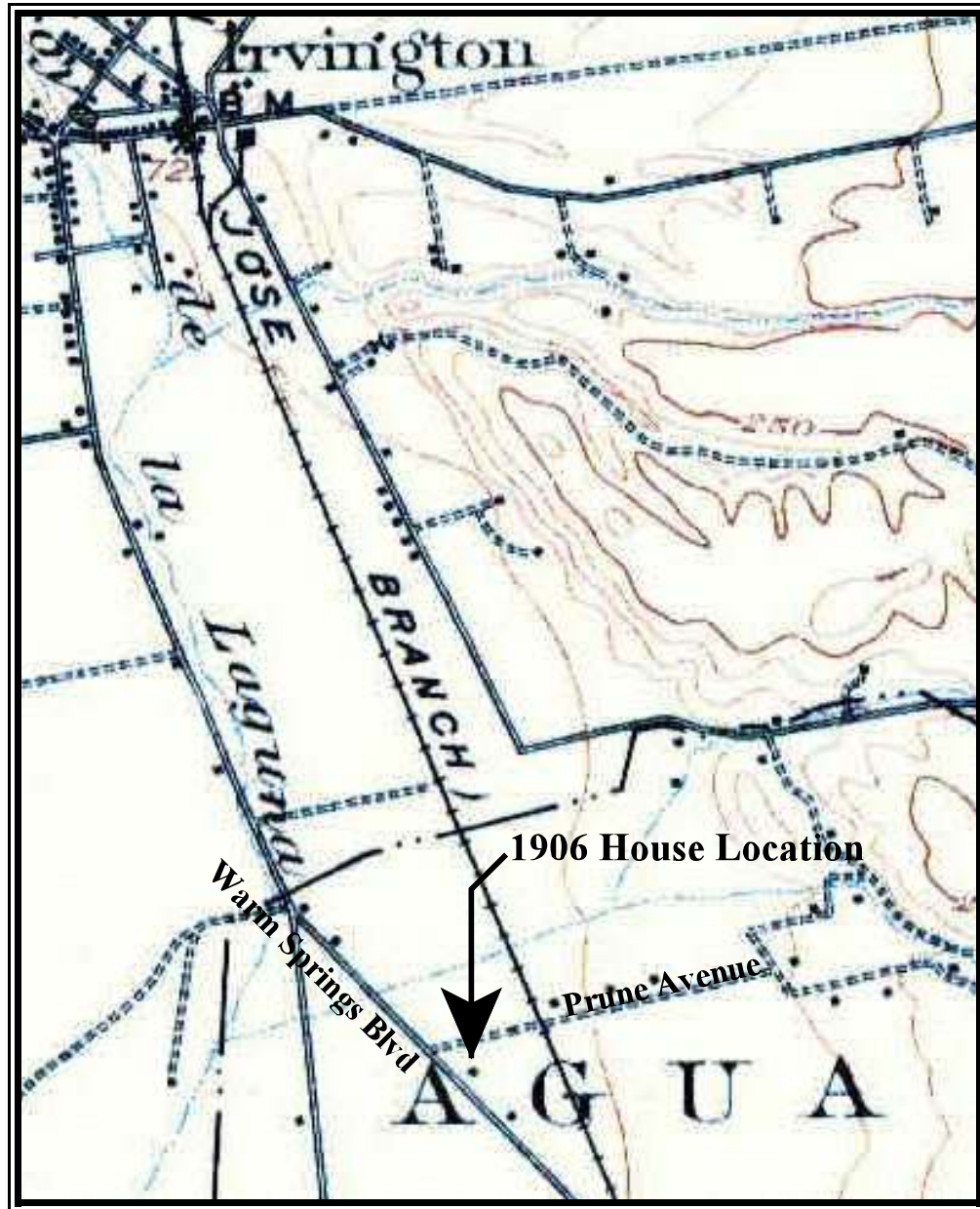


Figure 1: 1946 aerial photo showing development on eastern Old Warm Springs Project Area.
(Source: EDR 2014)



MAP 2: Portion of USGS 1906 Pleasanton 15 min. topographic quadrangle.

Prehistoric Ethnographic Setting

The Native Americans who owned the San Francisco Bay region, Santa Cruz Mountains and East Bay Hills, and the Monterey Bay area at the 1769 Spanish invasion are now most commonly known as "Ohlones," a name taken from a coastal village between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay. Archaeological evidence indicates the ancestral Ohlones arrived in the San Francisco Bay region—depending on location—somewhere around 500 C.E. (Moratto 1984), possibly from the lower Sacramento Valley/Delta, and in the Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay region somewhat later, displacing earlier populations. Anthropologists and the federal government labeled these people "Costanoans," from the Spanish "costanos" or coast-dwellers, also a linguistic term coined to describe groups speaking related languages and occupying the coast from the Golden Gate to Point Sur and inland to about the crest of the Diablo Range. Some Indian descendants of these people still prefer the term "Costanoan," while others prefer "Ohlone" or more readily identify with more specific tribelet names such as *Chochenyo*, *Amah Mutsun*, or *Rumsen/Rumsien*.

Currently the best available information indicates that, at the Spanish arrival, the *Tuibun* tribelet of Ohlones/Costanoans held the general Project Area vicinity, although tribal territories were usually in flux and boundaries are generally poorly defined by historic sources. Just south of the *Tuibun*, the *Alson* may have held the area, or at least were certainly close. The *Tuibun* group "...seem to have been located at the mouth of Alameda Creek and in the Coyote Hills area on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay. Only twenty people from the group were identified in baptismal registers, all at Mission San Jose in 1803 and 1804" (Milliken 1995:258). The *Alson* were "A tribe which held the low marshlands at the very southern end of San Francisco Bay, probably both north and south of the mouth of the Coyote River [*sic*], now the cities of Newark, Milpitas, and Alviso" (Milliken 1995:235). The Project Area being between Coyote Hills and the mouth of Coyote Creek, it appears likely this was in the boundary area between the two tribelets.

Marriage alliance analysis and the small number of neophytes recorded at the nearest mission indicate the *Tuibun* and *Alson* were both very small groups, at least by the time of missionization, but were closely affiliated with proximate groups along the shore of the Bay and nearby hills. Clearly the Project Area vicinity was permanently if sparsely occupied, probably supporting both small permanent and seasonally occupied villages, and likely had been for millennia, but no traces of habitation sites has been found in the Project Area. The Project region certainly was used aboriginally for habitation and for specific tasks, such as gathering and processing food resources, and the banks of permanent and seasonal streams in the region as well as the Bay shore do contain numerous archaeological sites, but population was probably low; nevertheless, the Project Area vicinity would be considered sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources.

Natural resources of their home areas provided for nearly all the needs of the aboriginal Ohlone populations. The prehistoric Ohlones were "hunters and gatherers," a term which may connote a transient, unstable and "primitive" life, materially poor, constantly fending off starvation; it should not. While undoubtedly recurrent lack of resources and cultural strife did not make life perpetually easy, in many ways the Indians of Central California, without agriculture, practiced a lifestyle similar to contemporary agricultural peoples elsewhere. The Ohlones had adapted to and managed their abundant local environment so well that some places were continuously occupied for literally thousands of years. Compared to modern standards, population density always remained relatively low, but the Ohlone area, especially around Monterey and San Francisco Bays, was one of the most densely lived-in areas of prehistoric California for centuries. The Ohlones had perfected living in and managing myriad slightly differing environments, varying with location, some rich enough to allow large permanent villages of "collectors" to exist, others less abundant and more encouraging of a more mobile "forager" way of life. Littoral (shoreline) and riparian environments were obviously more productive and were therefore most sought out, most intensively utilized and occupied, and most jealously defined and guarded. Uplands and redwood areas were less productive and less intensively

used and occupied than the ocean and bay coasts and riparian corridors. As throughout Central California, the acorn was the dietary staple of the Ohlones, with Black and Tanoak most favored, but a huge number of floral and faunal resources were utilized. Like other native Californians, the Ohlone managed their environment to improve it for their use; for example, by burning grass and brush lands annually to improve forage for deer and rabbits, keep the land open and more safe from predators and their neighbors, and improve productivity of many resources they used.

The basic unit of Ohlone society was the "tribelet," a small independent group of usually related families occupying a specific territory and speaking the same language or dialect. An incredible diversity of languages had evolved in Central California, evidence of centuries of in-place divergence of very small social groups. Early linguists encountered some groups of only 50-100 people speaking distinct languages sometimes but not generally unintelligible to their neighbors. Inter-tribelet relationships were socially and economically necessary however, to supply both marriage partners and goods and services not available locally. Trade and marriage patterns were usually but not always dictated by proximity; traditional enemies were usually also defined by proximity. Regional festivals and religious dances would bring groups together during periods of suspended hostilities.

Traditional trade patterns thousands of years old were operating when the Spanish invaded. Trade supplied the Ohlones with products from sources sometimes several hundred kilometers distant and allowing export of products unique to their region. Historically, Ohlone groups traded most with each other, but also exchanged regularly with the Bay, Plains and Coast Miwok, Yokuts, Salinans and Esselens to the south, and North Coast Ranges groups such as the Pomo. Of particular interest archaeologically are imported obsidian and exported marine mollusc shell beads and ornaments. Obsidian has the useful property of each source having a unique chemical "fingerprint," allowing obsidian artifacts to be sourced to a specific locality of origin, as well as being datable by technical methods ("hydration"). Obsidian was obtained by the Ohlones from the North Coast Ranges and Sierran sources, in patterns that changed through time. By 1769, some Ohlones had been trading for or buying finished obsidian arrowheads of specific forms, manufactured by North Coast Range tribes, for hundreds of years.

Shell beads and ornaments, a major export from the Ohlone regions, were made primarily from the shells of Purple Olive snail (*Olivella*), abalone (*Haliotis*), and later Washington clam (*Saxidomus*), all ocean coast species. Shell beads and ornaments evolved through many different and definable types through the millennia, allowing chronological typing of these common artifacts to serve as a key to the age and relative cultural position of archaeological complexes. These beads were traded for thousands of years, and have been found in prehistoric sites up and down California and many kilometers east, into the Great Basin, showing that prehistoric peoples on the coast were tied into an "international" system of trade. At the time of the Spanish invasion, some Central Californians had developed a system of exchange currency or "money" based on clam shell disk beads; the extent to which the Ohlones related to that system is unknown.

The small tribelet groups were at once independent and interdependent. Trade with neighbors in goods, and wives, is strongly attested in both the archaeological record and ethnographic accounts. These relationships often moved both goods—particularly obsidian and shell beads—and sometimes individuals long distances, though again proximity was always the key factor in intensity of interaction (Milliken 1995). As noted, control of territory and resources was jealously guarded. Such interaction also included a significant component of interpersonal and intergroup violence, from individual disputes and clan feuds up to a level reasonably described as warfare (with the goal of displacing neighbors and laying claim to their desirable resources). The most typical weapons were the short thrusting spear and the bow and arrow, and archaeological evidence of use of both on human victims is not lacking. The Spanish also reported ongoing multigenerational feuds or warfare in Ohlone territory. Such violence was accorded social approval and

prestige, as exemplified by the practice of dismembering dead foes, taking and displaying trophy heads, and composing powerful “songs of insult or vengeance” toward one’s enemies (Kroeber 1925:468-469). Postmortem dismemberment of human remains has been documented at several Ohlone area sites (Wiberg 1993, 2002; Grady et al. 2001; Hylkema 2002). The too-common stereotype of Central California natives as altogether peaceable and passive in the face of threats—from their neighbors or the Spanish invasion—is contradicted by both historic and archaeological evidence. As everywhere, the struggle for resources and territory, as well as individual disputes, often led to violent aggression in and between the Ohlone tribelets.

Absolute and relative dating of archaeological sites, the linguistic diversity, and demonstrably ancient trade patterns all indicate that the Ohlones and other Central California groups had reached a state of demographic and social stability unimaginable to modern city-dwellers—a state in which the same family groups occupied the same location continuously for hundreds or even thousands of years with few or very slow changes in population size or profile. This long term stability is reflected in the homogeneity of archaeological sites spanning wide geographic and temporal ranges.

RESEARCH METHODS AND GOALS

Historical Resources Records Search

Archaeological research was conducted for the Project Area with the initial basic goal of determining whether any physical remnants of prehistoric cultural use of the property were present. This began with a search of relevant records, maps, and archives maintained by the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at Sonoma State University. The records search was conducted on 28 May 2015 by Miley Holman for the Project Area and environs within 250 m. The records search also included a check of National Register of Historic Places data, the California Register, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, and other historic maps and archives in the possession of the NWIC. The results of the records search are briefly reviewed here.

The records search found 11 archaeological/historical resources reconnaissance reports within the 250 m search perimeter (see references), at least three of which included portions of the Project Area (Ruby et al. 2010; Bowden and Koenig 2011; Gilreath and Duval 2002, and probably Ruby et al. 2008), and four recorded historical resources within that same distance, including ALA-610 on the western Project parcel Gilreath 2002) and a house at 44960 Old Warm Springs Road at South Grimmer, across the street from the Project Area (Lanz 2002). Some reports are for general surveys and archival studies that may have included the Project properties but are poorly mapped or do not explicitly say fieldwork covered any of the current Project (Chavez, Woodbridge, and Hupman 1988; Chavez and Hupman 1990; Ambro 1990; Cartier and Eckert 1995). The eastern property was completely covered by the Bowden and Koenig 2011 and partially covered by the Ruby et al. 2010 survey, which also covered part of the western portion.

Prehistoric site ALA-610 was recorded by Gilreath in 2002, as “... located inside triangle formed by Fremont Boulevard (W), Old Warm Springs Boulevard (E) and South Grimmer Boulevard (S) ... north of South Grimmer and Fremont...” and described as “...a 20 m diameter light scatter of clam and oyster shellfish fragments. ... 8 m east of the east edge of Fremont Boulevard ... in an open, level, undeveloped field ... a few fist-sized cobbles were scattered throughout the field, but not in association with the shellfish scatter ... no fire-cracked rocks, no [lithic] flakes, etc. ... Materials noted were exclusively limited to thumbnail sized fragments of clam and oyster shellfish... near extreme northeast corner of open field (Gilreath 2002:1-2). In 2006 an update to the site record was completed and submitted in 2010 with another report (FWARG 2006; Ruby et al. 2008). In 2006 the site was revisited and found at the recorded location, but “...approximately

200' to the south of the site a very light scatter of oyster shell and two non-native first-sized [sic] cobbles were found in a small (15' radius) area. ... appears to be associated with Ca-ALA-610 and site boundaries were expanded to include this material" (FWARG 2006:1). This site was relocated during our surface reconnaissance and explored by trenching subsequently.

The NWIC File Number for the records search is 14-1665; a copy of this report will be submitted to the NWIC for inclusion in the permanent CHRIS archives.

City of Fremont Planning and Environmental Studies Context

A *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan, City of Fremont, California* was completed for the City in 2013 by First Carbon Solutions/Michael Brandman Associates and included as Appendix D of the *City of Fremont – Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan Draft EIR* (Dice 2013) as well as forming the basis for Section 3.4–Cultural Resources in the DEIR (First Carbon Solutions 2013). Neither of these documents were found on file at the NWIC, but were later supplied by the City's Planning Division–Community Development Department. The Cultural Resources Assessment was a review of existing data on cultural, historical, and archaeological resources, but did not include surveys of vacant land or relocation of recorded prehistoric archaeological sites.

A street-side reconnaissance survey of the whole of the project site was undertaken by FCS's environmental analyst Derrill Stepp. Photographs of all parcels located inside the project area were taken, with special emphasis on those parcels that had been identified as possibly exhibiting structures that are more than 45 years old or older. Intensive cultural resource surveys of vacant parcels were not made because such surveys should take place once a project-level developmental proposal (EIR or IS/MND) has been submitted to the City [First Carbon Solutions 2013:3.4-8].

The Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan DEIR also summarizes the context and cultural resources record for that study area, which includes the entire Old Warm Springs Project Area addressed here, and provides the procedures for cultural resource inventory (requiring records search and field surveys of undeveloped property), procedures if potentially significant cultural resources are recorded or found on a proposed development area, and procedures in the event human remains are found on the property (City of Fremont Community Development Department 2015). This report completes Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure MM CUL-1a, finding that no potentially significant prehistoric archaeological resources exist on the Project Area, so the need for the other Cultural Resource Mitigation Measures is obviated for prehistoric resources. These City documents and requirements therein are discussed more in the Conclusion and Recommendations section below.

Field Surface Reconnaissance

Field survey of the entire Old Warm Springs Project Area at an "intensive survey" level (cf. King, Moratto, and Leonard 1973) was completed 04 June by Senior H&A archaeologists. An intensive survey is one in which all visible areas of the subject property are closely inspected for archaeological indicators.

The two sides of the Project Area were generally similar, in that the large majority of each was open, recently disced fields, surrounded on the edges by thickly vegetated unplowed strips and planted trees and smaller zones of landscaping, the latter generally just outside the property lines. Each portion also contained structures in the respective southwest corners with adjacent areas of thick vegetation that obscured the surface at least somewhat. In the western portion, the recorded location of prehistoric site ALA-610 was first intensively examined, then the remainder of the property covered by transects running generally east/west

and spaced about 10 m apart. On the smaller eastern portion a similar strategy of east/west transects was used, but that section contained more zones that had not been disced and were covered by vegetation obscuring the surface, and the raised gravel-covered berms noted above were both completely graveled and contained thistles and other vegetation; the power line tower in the southeast was also surrounded by a graveled surface.

Our survey of the eastern portion having noted no apparent archaeological resources, and the property having been surveyed previously with the same results, no additional archaeological inventory work was recommended for that portion of the Project Area. In the western portion, very scant indications of ALA-610 were observed on the surface, all in the southern end of the site as mapped and corresponding to the location of shell fragments reported by FWARG in 2006, while no shell or other archaeological materials were found in the original recorded location "...near the extreme northwest corner of open field" as noted in 2002 (a total of three tiny pieces of oyster shell were observed in 2015, but no other faunal materials, artifacts, fire-cracked rock, or other prehistoric cultural indicators). Based on this result and the site record, subsurface reconnaissance was recommended and authorized by Valley Oak Partners.

Subsurface Reconnaissance

Following the Underground Service Alert (USA) notifications, responses for which reported no underground utilities in the Project Area (and hence no known disturbances deeper than the plow zone), on 15 and 16 June 25 trenches were excavated (see Map 3 and appended Trench Records). These trenches were excavated with a backhoe with 36-inch bucket, with samples (about five gallons/20 liters) of each bucket of excavated materials dry shaker screened through ¼"/6.35 mm; materials from trenches in the ALA-610 location were sampled twice as much. The six trenches in the vicinity of the recorded location of the prehistoric site were excavated with a backhoe bucket fitted with a straight flat cutting blade to minimize disturbance should cultural materials appear; for all other trenches a standard toothed bucket was used. Trenches were kept with a level bottom and vertical ends, so the strata could be observed and recorded, and the trenches excavated carefully in approximately 15 cm/6-inch lifts to facilitate depth recording. Most trenches were 240 cm/8 feet long and dug to ~185 cm/6 feet deep; the deepest went to 200 cm, the shallowest to 160 cm, each reaching into a clearly culturally-sterile gravelly sand layer. All trenches were logged and then backfilled and compacted by wheel-rolling immediately. Numerous photographs were taken of the trenching, surface, backdirt, and trench walls (Figure 3). See Map 3 for trench and area exposure locations.

Surface soil on both sides is a greyish-brown silty clay of varying darkness, loose and friable on/near surface, due to years of plowing, containing very few native rocks. The upper layer continues to about 60 to 90 cm below surface on the west side (the east side may be assumed to be similar), followed by a lighter, more brown colored, slightly softer silty clay subsoil between 60/90 and ~ 180 cm, again with very few rocks. A lower layer, found below about 170 cm in seven trenches, is also brown, but sandier and contains more rounded to subangular pea-sized gravel.

The subsurface trenching field crew also conducted another intensive surface survey of the recorded location of ALA-610 and vicinity, finding no indications of prehistoric cultural materials at all. The six trenches in the vicinity of the recorded site, one south of the barn and grove of trees, the other five in a line within the mapped site boundaries, were all entirely negative for archaeological materials. At this time, the origins and nature of the very scant shellfish remains found on the surface by FWARG in 2002 and 2006, cited as the only "cultural constituents" of the site, and some noted by surface survey in 2015 is unknown. FWARG also reported "A few fist-sized cobbles were scattered throughout the field, but not in association with the shellfish scatter" in 2002 (Gilreath 2002:1) and two similar cobbles in 2006, but does not say any of these are prehistoric artifacts, just "non-native" to the location. Numerous cobbles, fist-sized and larger,

were noted during our fieldwork, mostly near the roads, some with plow scars in the eastern portion, but none that appeared to be prehistoric artifacts. The site location has also been plowed at least a dozen times, probably more, since 2002, which could move small shell fragments around on the surface. Based on the results of these several surface surveys and the backhoe trenching, the supportable conclusion is that the recorded location of ALA-610 is not a prehistoric archaeological site and would not qualify as a historical resource under the provisions of CEQA.

RESEARCH RESULTS

In general, both sides of the Old Warm Springs Project Area have been subjected to the widespread, intensive and extensive historic to modern period impacts that have typically altered properties in the vicinity. The parcels to east and west have been used for agriculture for many decades; map research confirms no structures nor utilities have been installed on the western parcel except those still present. Historical maps and aerial photos show the eastern parcels were very probably in agricultural use by the beginning of the twentieth century and by mid-century four complexes of buildings were on the property, which survived to the end of the twenty-first century. The parcels were reported as open and the surface readily visible during the previous surveys and still were for our 2015 resurvey and trenching. No reliable evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources were found anywhere in the Project Area.

Surface Reconnaissance

The western Project Area had been recently disced and other than the barn structure and concrete pad and adjacent impenetrably thick grove of trees in the southwest, surface visibility was excellent. Intensive surface reconnaissance in the recorded area of ALA-610 failed to find any indications of archaeological resources other than the aforementioned three tiny fragments of oyster shell. On the west, abundant angular and rounded imported gravel was noted in the southwest corner, along with some concrete chunks, bits of modern glass and plastic. The central portions were nearly rock-free while all the edges had more or less imported gravels to cobbles on the surface. The central portion of the southern boundary of the western property along the fence, adjacent to the business park on the next parcel and next to the driveway between the two rows of buildings, had the highest concentration of modern trash and discards, where miscellaneous materials and trash were much more common (bottle glass, a bike rim and separated tire, golf balls, beverage cans, plaster, plastic bags and bits). One historic artifact, an old nearly intact yellow fire-brick embossed with "CARNEGIE," was found near the fence at the southwest, adjacent to the developed neighboring parcel. A single nearly intact NEHI soda bottle was found near the eastern fence of the western parcel, next to Old Warm Springs Boulevard, which had an embossed patent date of March 3, 1925, and two pieces of pre-1915 amethyst-tinted bottle glass were also noted in the thick grass of that undiscarded zone. Numerous imported cobbles were noted along the eastern fence too, many plow-scarred.

The eastern parcel contained more widespread modern materials and evidence of more intensive use, including the areas where structural remains, debris, and modern trash were noted adjacent to groups of trees (three on the west, one in the northeast corner), the large and long graveled berms, and a roughly square area bisected by the higher gravel berm contained generally more gravel of two size classes on the surface (the square and one berm are visible on the east parcel, Map 3). The standing house and adjacent wellhouse (from which the water tank but not platform had been removed) were in poor condition and ground conditions (landscaping, gravel fill for roads/parking) for surface survey poorer than elsewhere. Although recent trash and discards were abundant around the structures, no materials definitively older than 50 years were observed.

Other than three oyster shell fragments, not definitively prehistoric, not a single artifact or possible artifact, fire-cracked rock, bone, or other prehistoric cultural materials were found on either side of the property.

Subsurface Reconnaissance

As noted above, subsurface reconnaissance of the western Project Area was recommended and carried out by H&A in June 2015 with excavation of 25 trenches arrayed across that entire portion, with trenches closer together and more sampled by screening in the vicinity of prehistoric site ALA-610. The goal of subsurface testing was to determine whether the very scant surface shell fragments, possible prehistoric cultural materials, were indicative of a more substantial deposit below the highly visible surface, and if it was a “real site,” whether it contained potentially significant archaeological resources. Therefore trenches were located more closely together in the northwest (Map 3). Testing by backhoe methods are detailed above and logs provided as an appendix.

The results of subsurface reconnaissance were uniformly negative. No evidence of either prehistoric or historic archaeological resources was found in the trenches. Stratigraphy was more or less the same across the western Project Area, being a surface and near surface of grey-brown silty clay with few rocks with two more brown layers beneath, the deepest being more gravelly and sandy. Even modern or recent materials were notably scant, and absent over most of the property. No evidence was found indicating ALA-610 is a potentially significant prehistoric archaeological resource; under statewide criteria, it does not even qualify as a site.



MAP 3: Old Warm Springs Project Area Test Trench Locations.
(Source: Valley Oak Partners, LLC, 2015)



Figure 2: Looking west at house/wellhouse complex, east Project Area



Figure 3: Typical soil profile seen during backhoe testing.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources has been found by a thorough intensive surface survey and subsurface reconnaissance of the Valley Oak Partners Old Warm Springs Project Area. The proposed development should be able to proceed without affecting prehistoric archaeological resources as defined under CEQA nor historic properties as defined by federal regulations. However, historic maps, historic aerial photographs, and field observations lead to the conclusion that the eastern Project Area, between Old Warm Springs Boulevard and the railroad, was initially built upon as early as before the 1906 topographic map, and that by 1946 three other building complexes were built on other parcels in that portion. Although only a few materials older than 50 years were found by surface survey, and none on the eastern portion, these four areas have potential to contain historic archaeological features or deposits. It is therefore recommended that after the standing structures on the eastern portion are demolished, initial grading of the four old structural complex locations in the eastern portion be monitored by a qualified archaeologist to determine if possibly significant historic resources are present. If the trees on the eastern portion are to be removed by grubbing out, those operations should also be monitored.

These recommendations are based in an aimed at complying with the Cultural Resources inventory, assessment, evaluation, and impact mitigation measures set forth in the *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan, City of Fremont, California* (Dice 2013), Section 3.4—Cultural Resources in the *City of Fremont – Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan Draft EIR* (First Carbon Solutions 2013), and the *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program* for the Community Plan cited above (City of Fremont Community Development Department 2015). Pertinent portions of Mitigation Measures CUL-1a and -1b read:

CUL-1a: Prior to issuance of grading or building permits for development on vacant or unbuilt parcels within the Community Plan area, a qualified archaeologist shall undertake a field survey of the proposed project site following State Historic Preservation Officer guidelines associated with Phase 1 archaeological surveys. ...

CUL-1b: Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction shall be evaluated for significance in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria by a qualified archaeologist and, if significant, recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation forms. ... If the resource is determined significant under CEQA, the qualified archaeologist shall prepare and implement a research design and archaeological data recovery plan that will capture those categories of data for which the site is significant. The archaeologist shall also conduct appropriate technical analyses, prepare a comprehensive report and file it with the appropriate Information Center, and provide for the permanent curation of the recovered materials.

For the Old Warm Springs Project Area, the records search showed a prehistoric site, ALA-610, recorded on the western portion; very scant evidence of this recorded site was found on the surface, but small shellfish fragments were the only possible cultural constituent, as originally recorded, and subsequent subsurface reconnaissance failed to find any evidence of prehistoric archaeological deposits or additional constituent types.

Recommendations

- 1) No additional archaeological inventory or historic preservation research is recommended for this Project Area prior to initiation of construction activities.
- 2) Although no prehistoric archaeological resources were found on the Old Warm Springs Project Area property, it is possible that subsurface deposits may yet exist or that evidence of such resources has been

obscured by more recent natural or cultural factors. Archaeological and historic resources and human remains are protected from unauthorized disturbance by State law, and supervisory and construction personnel should therefore be made aware of the possibility of encountering archaeological materials in this sensitive zone.

In this area, the most common and recognizable evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources are deposits of marine shell, usually in fragments (oysters, mussels, clams, abalone, crabs, etc.), and/or bone, usually in a darker fine-grained soil (midden); obsidian and other stone flakes left from manufacturing stone tools, or the tools themselves (mortars, pestles, arrowheads and spear points), and human burials, often as dislocated bones. Isolated off-site prehistoric burials also occur on the Alameda County Bayside plain. Historic materials older than 45 years—bottles, artifacts, structural remains, etc.—may also have scientific and cultural significance and should be more readily identified. If during the proposed construction project any such evidence is uncovered or encountered, all excavations within 10 meters/30 feet should be halted long enough to call in a qualified archaeologist to assess the situation and propose appropriate measures.

3) A qualified archaeologist should be present during grading and any tree removal involving excavations at the four locations of early historic development on the eastern portion of the Project Area to determine if possibly significant historical materials, features, or deposits are present, and if so, to record and recover archaeological data as per Mitigation Measure CUL-1b, including formal recording of the archaeological resources. The duration of monitoring should be determined by the results of initial grading or tree grubbing. A report of monitoring must be completed and submitted to the NWIC for inclusion in the permanent State archives, and all other provisions of CUL-1b completed.

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APPENDIX 1:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING LOG
OLD WARM SPRINGS PROJECT AREA,
FREMONT, ALAMEDA COUNTY

Trenching Record

Site: Old Warm Springs Blvd

Recorders: J. Schlagheck, K. Dobinson

Test Date: 6/15 & 6/16, 2015

Trench Size: 3' wide, 8' long

Trench	Depth (cm)	Soil/Sediment	Cultural Materials/Notes
1	0-90 (Layer: L1)	Medium gray silty clay that is loose on the top 50 cm from recent tilling. Soil is otherwise compact and hard with very few rocks	None. Soil has very minor amount of modern debris (plastic, paper, and metal) within 10 cm of the surface.
	80-173 (Layer: L2)	Light to medium brown compact but relatively soft silty clay with very few rocks	None
	173-184 (Layer: L3)	Medium brown silty clay with some sand and decomposing pea to 3 cm gravel	None
2	0-70	Same as L1 above	None
	70-180	Same as L2 above	None
	180-184	Same as L3 above	None
3	0-86	Same as L1 above	None
	86-192	Same as L2 above	None
4	0-65	Same as L1 above	None
	65-190	Same as L2 above	None
5	0-60	Same as L1 above	None
	60-180	Same as L2 above	None
	180-185	Same as L2 above with trace coarse sand	None
6	0-60	Same as L1 above	None
	60-185	Same as L2 above	None
	185-190	Same as L2 above with trace coarse sand	None
7	0-75	Same as L1 above	None
	75-190	Same as L2 above	None
8	0-78	Same as L1 with dry blocky texture	None
	78-190	Same as L2 above	None
9	0-75	Same as L1 above	None
	75-190	Same as L2 above	None
10	0-75	Same as L1 above	None
	75-190	Same as L2 above	None
11	0-75	Same as L1 above	None
	75-190	Same as L2 above	None
12	0-80	Same as L1 above	None
	80-200	Same as L2 above	None
13	0-85	Same as L1 above	None
	85-180	Same as L2 above	None
14	0-80	Same as L1 above	None
	80-178	Same as L2 above	None

Trench	Depth (cm)	Soil/Sediment	Cultural Materials/Notes
15	0-80	Same as L1 above	None
	80-125	Same as L2 above	None
	125-160	Coarse silty sand with rounded and sub angular pea to 5 cm gravel. Wet friable texture	None
16	0-80	Same as L1 above	None
	80-185	Same as L2 above	None
17	0-90	Same as L1 above	None
	90-180	Same as L2 above	None
18	0-95	Same as L1 above	None
	95-185	Same as L2 above	None
19	0-110	Same as L1 above	None
	110-190	Same as L2 above	None
20	0-100	Same as L1 above	None
	100-190	Same as L2 above	None
21	0-80	Same as L1 above with light gray specks within soil matrix	None
	80-190	Same as L2 above	None
22	0-80	Same as L1 above	None
	80-175	Same as L2 above	None
	175-200	Coarse silty sand with rounded and sub angular pea to 5 cm gravel. Wet friable texture	None
23	0-100	Same as L1 above	None
	100-180	Same as L2 above	None
24	0-95	Same as L1 above	None
	95-185	Same as L2 above	None
25	0-95	Same as L1 above	None
	95-185	Same as L2 above	None